

Claims

1. Method for inspecting a group of drugs, comprising:

- the infeed of patient and drug data;
- conveying said drugs past a camera;
- optical scanning said drugs by a camera;
- comparing said scanned drugs with said infeed;
- accepting or rejecting said drugs;
- storing data relating to said drugs in a memory

5 10 characterized in that several groups of drugs are inspected, wherein each group is provided in a pack and a number of packs is connected to provide a string, wherein each string is provided with patient data, said camera inspecting said packs and the group of drugs therein, wherein the scanned image of the patient data and packs having the group of drugs therein, is entered in said memory.

15 2. Method according to Claim 1, in which said drug scan comprises the number of drugs.

3. Method according to one of the preceding claims, in which said drug scans comprise the shape and/or colour of said drugs.

20 4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein both the number of drugs and the shape thereof are used for comparing.

5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, in which said acceptance/rejection comprises the application of a colour marking.

6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, in which said patient data are provided on each pack.

25 7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, in which before the scanning of said drugs they are subjected to a treatment for spreading them out.

8. Method according to claim 7, comprising vibrating.

9. Method according to claim 7 or 8, comprising moving with a brush over said pack.

30 10. Method according to one of claims 7-9, comprising exerting a displacing engagement from above on said drugs, comprising an annular movement in a plane essentially parallel with a carrier on which the drugs are placed.

11. Method according to claim 10, said engagement comprising resilient engagement in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

12. Method according to claim 10 or 11, in which said annular movement comprises a circular movement.
13. Method according to claim 12, in which the central axis of rotation is essentially at right angles to said carrier.
5. 14. Method according to one of the preceding claims, in which said objects are displaced during spreading in the plane of said carrier.
15. Device for inspecting a string (10) of interconnected drug packs (15), comprising an infeed (6) for a string of packs (15), conveyance means (4) for said packs, a camera (2) for scanning the drugs in said packs, a discharge (7) for said string of packs, and also an input (19) for patient/drug data, in addition to a comparison device (3) for comparing said patient/drug data with said camera scans, characterized in that scanning means are present for scanning of said patient data, and also storage means (3, 5, 8) for storing said patient scans and said drug scans.
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16. Device according to claim 15, in which said conveyance means comprise a circulating belt with infeed (6) and discharge (7) provided near each other.
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17. Device according to one of claims 15 or 16, in which said scanning means comprise said camera (2) and also means (16) for storing its scan in a mirror image.
18. Device according to one of claims 15-17, in which said camera comprises a first light source (16) for determining the patient data and the number of drugs, and a second light source (24) for determining the colour and/or shape of said drug scans.
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19. Device according to one of the claims 15-18, comprising means for spreading drugs lying next to/on top of one another, comprising a carrier (42) for said drugs, as well as a spreading device (41) disposed above said carrier and engaging on said objects, said spreading device comprising a cam-shaped part (46), which in the unloaded state is disposed directly above said carrier with clearance (a) and is designed in such a manner that it is fastened to a drive (52) in order to allow said cam-shaped part to follow a continuous path lying in a plane parallel to and above said carrier.
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20. Device according to claim 19, in which said means comprise two spreading devices arranged next to one another.
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21. Device according to claim 19 or 20, in which said cam-shaped part is resiliently displaceable in a direction at right angles to said carrier.
22. Device according to one of claims 19-21, in which said drive comprises a rotating motor (52) provided with an arm (48) which is at right angles to the direction

of rotation and connected to the rotation shaft and on which said cam-shaped part is arranged.

23. Device according to one of claims 19-22, in which said drive comprises a rotating motor, a transmission (51) connected to the rotation shaft thereof and an auxiliary arm (54) which is driven by said transmission and extends essentially at right angles to said carrier and is fitted with said arm (48) on which the said cam parts (46) are arranged.

24. Device according to one of claims 19-23, in which said cam-shaped parts (46) are arranged on an arm (48), said arm being rotatable about a first central axis of rotation (53), said arm being arranged on an auxiliary arm (54), said auxiliary arm being rotatable about a second central axis of rotation (55), said first and second central axes of rotation being at a distance from each other and running parallel to each other.

25. Device according to claim 24, in which two arms with cam-shaped parts are arranged on said auxiliary arms.